



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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4 FEBRUARY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
4 JANUARY 1966

1. Vietnam

A spokesman of the foreign ministry in Hanoi today put an official imprimatur on North Vietnam's tough, unyielding public stand in the face of current US initiatives for peace.

These US moves are a "trick," the spokesman insisted, designed "merely to soothe public opinion" at home and abroad.

In the statement Hanoi takes note of the US bombing pause for the first time. It says the US has no right to call for any concessions in return and asserts that the US must instead "forever and unconditionally" end its bombings and other acts of war against North Vietnam.

The statement reiterates Hanoi's four points, just as Pham Van Dong set them out last April. In the present case, however, Hanoi says that the US must prove it accepts them by "actual deeds" before a "political solution can be dealt with." In April Pham Van Dong had called only for their "recognition."

Chinese Communist Foreign Minister Chen Yi last Thursday added a new dimension to Peking's charges that the Soviets are shortchanging the North Vietnamese. Chen pointed out that the Soviets have failed to take "all kinds of measures to immobilize US forces," thus enabling Washington to concentrate them against Vietnam.

2. North Vietnam

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50X1

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3. South Vietnam

50X1

4. Thailand

A recent statement marking the first anniversary of the Peking-based Thai Patriotic Front provides a further indication that the Communists intend to step up subversive activity in Thailand.

The statement calls on Thai Communists to expand their "armed struggle" into a "people's war." Moreover, the Communists put more emphasis than in the past on the expanding US presence in Thailand, apparently trying to portray their movement as a struggle for independence from the US.

A Chinese official echoed these themes at a reception on 1 January in Peking, and today Hanoi's official party newspaper chimed in with a long editorial pointing to Thailand as a "typical case of US neocolonialism." Hanoi says the anti-US struggle in Thailand is a part of the "national liberation movement" in Southeast Asia.

5. India-Pakistan

First reports from the Tashkent talks indicate that nobody has upset the applecart yet, but neither have the opening statements in favor of peace shown any sign of retreat from basically irreconcilable positions. Ayub and Shastri reportedly have had at least one private meeting, results unknown.

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6. Panama

Next week's anniversary of the anti-US rioting two years ago is likely to bring student demonstrations in memory of Panama's "martyrs." Things could quickly get out of hand, but the government seems in a somewhat better position to keep the lid on than it was even a year ago.

The president's determination to maintain order has been repeatedly demonstrated and the national guard is now better equipped for mob control. It is clear, too, that the government is acting responsibly on the explosive issues relating to Canal negotiations with the US.

Nevertheless, there still are very real popular dissatisfactions on which the ever-present assortment of ultra-nationalists, demagogues, and Communists can feed. Serious unemployment in the main cities at either end of the Canal is especially worrisome. Moreover, the Robles government has been unable to engender any significant popular support for itself.

7. Dominican Republic

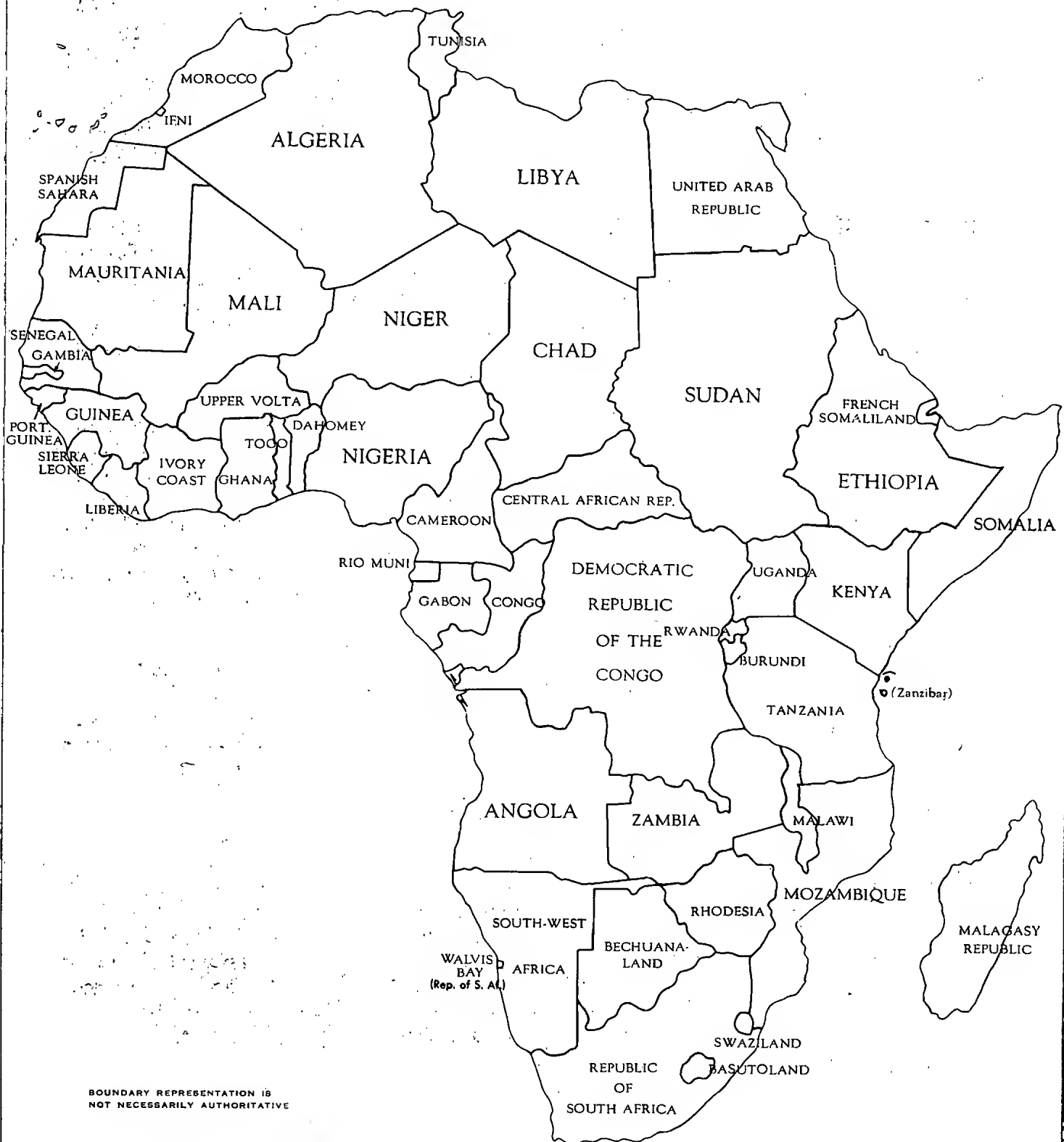
Garcia Godoy finally made his radio-broadcast last night, announcing that certain unnamed military would leave "within a few hours" for the good of the country. As of last report today, however, none has left.

On the credit side, Garcia Godoy's talk did not, as had been feared, immediately bring the factions into the streets, and the Santo Domingo populace seems to have reacted quietly. This may only be a calm before the storm.

AFRICA

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

OCTOBER 1964



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8. Upper Volta

The military took over this landlocked former French West African colony last night, but it is still not clear who is really coming out on top. Labor union organizers brought out crowds in the capital again today, apparently to pressure the military and to make sure that ex-President Yameogo is really out.

9. Rhodesia

The US Consulate General in Salisbury reports that so far outside pressure has had the effect of drawing the white population closer together. Significant disaffection may develop as the economic situation tightens, but this still looks some distance off.

The Africans are engaged in new maneuvers to prod the British and, presumably, the US as well. A special "Committee of Five" of the Organization of African Unity is to meet Thursday in Ghana.

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A meeting of British Commonwealth members has now been officially called for 11-12 January in Nigeria. It is not yet certain, however, that Prime Minister Wilson himself will attend, and a few other Commonwealth states are holding aloof for their own reasons.

10. Turkey

Another parliamentary debate on the Cyprus issue begins tomorrow. Anti-US elements will use the occasion for propaganda, and may again try to promote demonstrations against US facilities in Ankara and Istanbul. The Turkish police have effectively blocked attempts of this kind recently, however.

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